

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING THE SOUTHERN PINES FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR 125 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERV- ICE

#### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 10, 2023*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Southern Pines Fire Department for 125 years of exceptional service to our community.

The Southern Pines Fire Department was founded on February 13, 1898, following a devastating fire which destroyed the Central Hotel. Prior to its inception, the public was responsible for banding together with buckets of water to put out any fires. In 1916, the town bought its first chemical truck before purchasing Old Betsy, a motorized fire engine, in 1925. After many dances and community events were held to fund the department, the town purchased a new fire engine in 1935. In one of the department's most impressive accomplishments, it saved the Southland Hotel from destruction at the hands of a devastating fire in 1943 and helped all guests escape the disaster without any injuries. This heroic feat marks one of the countless acts of bravery Southern Pines firefighters have performed in the face of danger over the past 125 years. Their outstanding actions and leadership will continue to stand as an example for all first responders to emulate.

I would like to extend my most sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Southern Pines Fire Department for its dependable service and sacrifice. The admirable dedication its firefighters have long extended to protect those in our community does not go unrecognized, and I know I speak for all in our community in wishing them the best as they continue to provide life-saving assistance to those in need.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring the Southern Pines Fire Department for 125 years of exemplary service.

### RECOGNIZING CFMA AWARD WINNERS—JULIE SCHATZ

#### HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 10, 2023*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Julie Schatz of Comp Group. Julie is a leader in the complex, intricate industry of construction management. She has been identified and awarded Associate of the Year by the Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA).

CFMA is a figurehead in the construction industry by virtue of its support for financial managers through networking, educational,

and informational services. CFMA grants more opportunities and resources to empower advanced, innovative development of infrastructure in the prosperous district of TX-24. The Associate of the Year award goes to an individual that substantially impacts the DFW chapter of CFMA. Julie has established her commitment, contribution, and influence in the industry as she has emerged as a prominent leader. Her unwavering work ethic and devotion to advocating for her clients yield noteworthy results in the expedition of development projects.

Congratulations to Julie on earning this high recognition for all her impressive work.

### CONGRATULATING MR. ERIC RAUN ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF FED- ERAL SERVICE

#### HON. GLENN IVEY

OF MARYLAND  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 10, 2023*

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a dedicated professional with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on the occasion of his retirement. Mr. Eric Raun is an exemplary public servant who has demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism serving our nation's veterans. He has served with VA's Office of General Counsel for more than 40 years. His career in public service is a testament to the importance of selfless service.

For the entirety of his legal career, Mr. Raun has provided guidance to the Secretary and senior officials of the Veterans Health Administration. He has been involved in a remarkable breadth of important matters including health care eligibility reform, the establishment of the medical benefits package, the creation and development of the State Veterans Home program, gifts to VA, mental health care, and countless other issues.

As Mr. Raun embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he will recall, with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment, the outstanding contributions he has made to VA, Congress, and veterans of the United States. May his life be filled with health and happiness.

### REINTRODUCTION OF THE EMERG- ING BUSINESS ENCOURAGEMENT ACT OF 2023

#### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 10, 2023*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am re-introducing the Emerging Business Encour-

agement Act which will give new small businesses a more equal playing field to secure federal contracts.

Emerging businesses face obstacles that are distinctly different from more well-established small businesses. Under the Emerging Business Act, the Small Business Administration would create a new designation for an Emerging Business Enterprises based on the company's age, size and total compensation. This will encourage meaningful opportunities among like-sized enterprises compared to competition against larger, fully-established enterprises.

Emerging businesses often have trouble securing federal contracts. The Emerging Business Encouragement Act will expand opportunities by requiring federal agencies to set contracting goals for emerging business enterprises equal to or not less than 3 percent of contracts and subcontracts.

Additionally, many emerging businesses have difficulty accessing the capital they need to develop products and hire workers. Under the Emerging Business Encouragement Act, the percentage of federal loan guaranty authority for Small Business Administration loans would increase from 50 percent for all small businesses to 65 percent for emerging business enterprise, providing a significant incentive for lenders to lend to these businesses.

We must support all job creators as our economy continues to recover, but there are significant differences between a startup with only a few employees and an established business with a few hundred employees and decades of experience. This legislation will help these emerging businesses overcome the unique challenges they face in their first few years of operation, and it will ensure these businesses are able to compete for federal contracts and gain access to critical small business loans.

To be certified as an emerging business enterprise, a company must be 10 percent or less the size of the current SBA designation for a small business, which is typically capped at 500 employees.

The company must be less than five years old at the time of certification with annual compensation of individuals in management positions not exceeding 200 percent of the annual mean wage for "Management Occupations" defined by the U.S. Department of Labor. These standards will ensure that those businesses benefiting from EBE programs are truly emerging.

With this bill, we can help entrepreneurs get through their first few years, when so many businesses fail, so they can grow and create jobs. And it provides incentives for lenders to provide capital to emerging businesses, one of the top concerns for entrepreneurs.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.